(iv) Batch No./Code No.;

(v) "Date of Manufacture" "Best Before Date" or "Expiry Date", Vegetarian/Non-Vegetarian symbol etc.

There are penal provisions under Section 16 of the PFA Act, 1954 for non-compliance of the provisions of the Act and Rule made thereunder.The State/UT Governments are enforcing the provisions of PFA Act and Rules.

Sale of medicines by hospital employees

2662. SHRIMOOLCHAND MEENA:
DR.T SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report regarding hospital employees held for stealing medicines and selling in the market which appeared in the "Hindustan Times" dated 30th June, 2002;

(b) if so, whether two employees of GTB Hospital were found indulging in this racket;

(c) if so, the details of the investigation; and

(d) the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Delhi Police has informed that two employees of GTB Hospital namely Kanhiya Lai and Rajender Thakur working in O.T Department of the hospital have been arrested and medicines and surgical items pilfered from the hospital have been recovered from them. Delhi Police is investigating the case.

Knowledge of herbal medicines

†2663. SHRI MOTILAL VQRA: Will the Miniser of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased te state:

whether the Parliamentary Committee has expressed its concern

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

over the increasing hold of western countries over the knowledge of Herbal medicines;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) by when Government would take effective steps in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government have already taken step to establish Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) which will made available the Ayurvedic knowledge of the medicinal use of plants already in the public domain, in patent compatible format in order to prevent the grant of Patent for claims which are neither inventions nor discoveries. Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) for 35,000 formulations will be completed soon.

New Medical Colleges

2664. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state the number of new Medical Colleges to be sanctioned by the MCI during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): Seven new medical colleges have so far been permitted by the Central Government on the recommendations of Medical Council of India during the current financial year. In addition, 18 proposals are pending with the Government/Medical Council of India. Out of 18 pending proposals, Letter of Intent have been issued in 7 cases and 11 proposals are at various stages of consideration with the Government of India/Medical Council of India. No assurance can be given for clearance of these proposals as clearance of these proposals depend upon fulfilment of qualifying criteria prescribed in the "Establishment of Medical College Regulation, 1999", availability .of infrastructure facilities and recommendation of the Medical Council of India thereon.

News-item "No cure for fake Medicines"

2665. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news